

als received nearly 103,000 visas- 148 per cent increase over the previous year.

ECONOMY

■ **Right of Way Rules amended to Facilitate Faster Rollout of 5G Services**

Union Minister of Communications Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw released amendment in the Indian Telegraph Right of Way (RoW) Rules, 2016 to facilitate faster and easier deployment of telecom infrastructure during a programme organized by the Department of Communications on 25th August. In the amended rules, charges for RoW permissions have been made reasonable and a ceiling for RoW charges for installation of 5G small cells and optical fibre cable on street infrastructure has been fixed. These amendments will pave the way for deployment of 5G small cells on existing street infrastructure. A new 5G RoW application 'form' on GatiShakti Sanchar Portal has also been launched. With these series of reforms, the country is now ready for launch of 5G services by October, 2022.